

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 have been previously withdrawn. Claims 34, 59 and 66-69 have been previously cancelled. Claims 33, 35-58 and 60 are currently pending and have been examined. Claims 33, 35-58 and 60 have been rejected as follows.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 33-34, 40-53, and 54-60 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,256,737 (Bianco et al) in view of US Pg. Pub No. 2003/0130954 (Carr).

The Examiner rejected claims 35-38, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,256,737 (Bianco et al) in view of US Pg. Pub No. 2003/0130954 (Carr) and in view of US Patent No. 7,630,986 (Herz et al).

Applicants respectfully disagree that the cited art teach or disclose each of the limitations of the previously submitted claims. In one embodiment, the instant application conducts a staged enrollment into a biometric authorization system. A user registers some of the data necessary to start his record and then completes his record at a later time by providing the remainder of the data required to enable the user to biometrically authenticate himself via the system. As an example, a user could enroll his contact and financial information online and then complete his enrollment by providing his biometric at a merchant location.

The Examiner has rejected the instant claims based on Bianco in view of Carr. Bianco appears to disclose a system for utilizing multiple biometric devices. An individual may enroll in that system one biometric device at a time, thereby enrolling a template for each biometric device, which the Examiner is equating to the staged enrollment of the instant application. One of the differences of the instant application is that enrollment sessions do not singularly complete an enrollment, whereas every enrollment session in Bianco is a complete enrollment as it enables the individual to use that particular biometric device to authenticate himself. Therefore, Bianco's enrollment is not staged or performed in a piecemeal manner. Bianco's record might be made up of multiple enrollment sessions, but each enrollment session enables ("or activates" in Carr) user biometric authentication for that particular biometric device. In the instant system, however, the individual cannot authenticate himself until the piecemeal enrollment has resulted

in the collection of the necessary data to activate the account. Were the instant system similar to Bianco's, in that the instant system allowed users to enroll multiple types of biometric data, the instant system would first require all of that biometric data for each device be enrolled and the record be activated before use. Bianco in view of Carr only convey that each of the Bianco enrollments would need to be activated before use, which still does not teach or disclose the instant application as described above.

However, purely in the interest of expediting the prosecution of the instant application, Applicant has amended the claims as follows:

33. (currently amended) A method for enabling a user with a partial enrollment record stored in a system database in a biometric system to use ~~a~~ the biometric system, comprising:
- receiving, at a first enrollment station, first enrollment data for a user;
 - storing, in a system user record in a system database, the first enrollment data;
 - receiving, at a computing device at a second enrollment station, identifying information for a user;
 - receiving, at the computing device, second enrollment data for the user, wherein the second enrollment data differs from the first enrollment data, wherein ~~total complete~~ enrollment data is the combination of the first and second enrollment data required to enable usage of the biometric system for biometric authentication;
 - sending, from the computing device, the second enrollment data to said system database;
 - storing, in said system database, the second enrollment data in the system user record; and
 - identifying the system user record as active based on the ~~total complete~~ enrollment data.

Support for the above amendments can at least be found in paragraphs 24 and 27 of the instant application. Claims 44, 45 and 58 are also currently amended and claim 59 has been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at any time.

	Respectfully submitted,
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